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ACCUSES THE CORBIN COMPANY.

Broker Felder Claims His Papers Were Seized.

LOST COMMISSIONS, TOO.

He Asks a Georgia Court to Restore \$75,000 Due Him.

AN INJUNCTION GRANTED.

Receiver Also Appointed for Property of Mortgage Companies in That State.

CHARGES OF TRICKERY MADE.

He Alleges That by Peculiar Book-keeping He Lost Large Profits—A Corbin Partner Says "It's an Old Trouble."

Macon, Ga., Jan. 31.—A sensational suit in which the Corbin Banking Company of New York City is charged with seizing the papers, private files and business contracts with Austin Corbin, of Felder & Hehre, as well as of withholding a large amount in commissions from that firm, has been filed before United States Judge Emory Speer in this city. Although this was done a week ago, and a receiver was at once appointed, the facts alleged have been carefully guarded.

The complainant is T. A. Felder, formerly a confidential broker of Austin Corbin. From 1887 to 1893 he represented the Corbin Banking Company in Georgia, South Carolina and Alabama, with headquarters in this city. During this period he loaned many thousands of dollars on farm mortgages. In 1893 he went to New York to take charge of the Southern business of the Corbin Banking Company and the loan companies for which it acted or claimed to act as agent. The firm of Felder & Hehre was formed in August, 1895, under an arrangement with the Corbin Banking Company by which it was to receive certain commissions.

This arrangement continued until the death of Mr. Corbin. The new management of the Corbin Banking Company, it is alleged in Felder's bill, at first neither conceded nor denied his interest in the commissions. After waiting for five months he made a positive demand for settlement.

Deserted by His Partner.

According to Felder's complaint, the Corbin people induced Hehre, his partner, to aid them in denying the claim. He alleges that notwithstanding that Felder and Hehre occupied a separate office in the Corbin building and had paid their rent up to January 1 last, the Corbin clerks on December 15, of last year, forcibly seized all the papers, Corbin contracts and correspondence of every nature and then refused Felder entrance.

Unable to get satisfaction Felder left New York and took up his residence here. He now sues the Corbin Banking Company, Alfred N. Hehre, his former partner; the New England Mortgage Security Company of Boston, the Land Mortgage Investment and Agency Company of America, Ltd., the Union Mortgage Banking and Trust Company and the American Freehold and Land Mortgage Company, Ltd., all of London, and the American Mortgage Company, of Edinburgh. All of these companies, it is alleged, were represented by the Corbin Banking Company, as agents, and have invested some \$10,000,000 in the South. The amount involved in the present suit is nearly \$75,000.

Felder charges that by way of subterfuge large sums have been charged to these various mortgage companies by the Corbin Company for attorneys' fees, tax claims and sale commissions through other channels than Felder and Hehre, and that in doing so they materially lessened the profits due the complainant, besides violating the contract with him. Felder also seeks to recover commissions earned in his ordinary business, the same, he states, being to his credit on the books of the Corbin Company, but for which he has been denied an accounting.

Usurious Rates for Farmers.

A striking feature of the bill is the manner in which, it is alleged, poor farmers throughout the South and West were charged usurious rates of interest. It is asserted that the Corbin company, in lending money on their farms, exacted the highest legal rate of interest allowed in each State, and in addition charged a cash commission of from fifteen to twenty per cent of the principal from the borrower, which sum was taken out of the money so loaned. In the foreclosure of these farm mortgages in the several States pleas of usury have been universally filed, but the defendants have been unable to obtain the necessary proof to sustain the charges.

The hearing of Felder's suit is set down for April 1, and sensational testimony is expected, as well as a charge that the Corbin Company is insolvent. Meanwhile Judge Speer has granted an injunction which prohibits the realization by the mortgage company of any of their properties or moneys in this State pending a final adjudication, and it is understood that upon the answer of the defendants the jurisdiction of this injunction may be extended to the entire United States and tie up the whole Corbin business.

Judge Speer has also appointed E. P. Williamson, of this city, receiver for all the property of the Corbin Company in this State, the amount of which exceeds twenty million dollars. He is also directed to take charge of the assets of Felder & Hehre in this State.

George S. Edgell, of No. 41 East Thirty-eighth street, who is a partner in the Austin Corbin Banking Company, did not receive the news of the litigation in Atlanta with complacency. "I do not talk business on Sunday," he said, "and besides, there is nothing in this at all. It is an old trouble with an employee."



Mme. Nellie Melba.

The singer landed at Havre, France, yesterday. She burst into tears when told that rumors had reached there from America that she had left Grau's company because of quarrels with the De Reszkes. She told Raoul Desmond, the Journal correspondent, that she was on excellent terms with the brothers, and that they had "hearts of gold." Mme. Melba said she had been seriously ill, and she quit singing and went to Europe because doctors ordered her to do so.

"NO QUARREL," SAYS MELBA.

Burst Into Tears When Told of Rumors from America.

DE RESZKES HER FRIENDS.

Brothers Have "Hearts of Gold," and Litvinne Is a "Good Comrade."

By Raoul Desmond.
Havre, France, Jan. 31.—Mme. Melba arrived here at 9 o'clock this morning, and being desirous of having a chat with her on her American experiences, I went out to meet the liner on which she was a passenger and had a long conversation with her on the tug.

I learned from her own lips that she was very well satisfied with her stay in America.

Then I delicately alluded to rumors current in the United States respecting differences that she is supposed to have had with certain colleagues. At once she burst into tears and sobbed almost hysterically. "Mais c'est une infamie," she said.

It being French soil, so to speak, we were speaking French.

Praise for the De Reszkes.

"The De Reszkes are the best comrades in the world," she continued. "At my departure from New York it was they who came to give me a last friendly grip of the hand. Mme. Litvinne and other actresses have always been good comrades."

"Please say that perfect harmony always prevailed in the company. These rumors are a monstrous invention. The truth is I was very ill. I escaped typhoid fever only to catch influenza. I had laryngitis and amygdalitis. My feverishness was very great, always 104 or 105 pulsations."

Forced to Stop by Doctors.

"On the urgent advice of five physicians I was obliged to give up singing in order to avoid getting worse. The physicians thought sea air would do me good, and for that reason I left France."

"I certainly intend to return, and will be in Chicago in three or four weeks' time. Then people will see that all these rumors are false. It is ridiculous that people can't believe one can be ill and honest. (C'est insensé qu'on ne puisse pas croire qu'on peut être malade et honnête.)"

My personal impression is that Mme. Melba is quite sincere. I asked her the pertinent question in a variety of ways, but her answer was always the same.

Indignation at Stories.

Her indignation was not simulated and her tears were not artificial. She was furious in her denunciations of American papers, asserting that if intrigues existed she knew nothing of them.

Finally Melba declared that she did not believe De Reszke to be a partner of Grau.

YOUNG MARTIN TOWED MISS POST.

Betrothal Reserved as a Surprise for the Masked Ball.

HEIR TO MANY MILLIONS.

His Sister, Mrs. Bradley Martin's Only Other Child, Provided for When She Married.

It was said on the best authority, last night, that the engagement of Bradley Martin, Jr., to Miss Daisy Post will be announced at the fancy dress ball on February 10.

It will be recalled that the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Martin, Sherman Martin, died in this city two years ago. Bradley Martin, Jr., will come into at least half of his mother's fortune. Their only other living child is the Countess of Craven, and \$75,000 a year was settled on her at her marriage.

Mrs. Sherman, who is Mrs. Martin's mother, lives in Great Britain. She also has an immense fortune. So Bradley Martin, Jr., is prospectively one of the richest young men of New York. He was not in England with his parents during their last visit, but remained at Harvard College.

A very important point in the matter is that Mrs. Bradley Martin is said to have given her hearty approval to the match. The fancy dress ball is her token of this approbation.

Miss Daisy Post is regarded as one of the most attractive, intelligent, and vivacious young girls in New York society. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Post, and a niece on the maternal side of Mrs. Frederic W. Vanderbilt. As announced last week in the Journal, Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt will give a dinner in honor of her niece, Miss Post, at Sherbrooke, two nights after the ball. This will probably be in honor of the engagement of the young couple.

Miss Daisy Post, whose Christian name is really Marguerite, though everybody calls her Daisy, has an elder married sister, Mrs. Thomas Howard. "Tom" Howard was for a few years the most popular cotton leader in town. Mr. and Mrs. Howard have a cottage in the immediate vicinity of the residence, at Hyde Park on the Hudson, of Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Vanderbilt.

It was said at the time of their marriage that Mrs. Frederic W. Vanderbilt settled an income of \$12,500 a year on her niece.

Mrs. Bradley Martin is not out of the woods.

Alexander Bremer, president of the Musicians' Mutual Protective Union, is as indignant over the employment of two Hungarian bands for her bal masque as he was over the rumored employment of Government musicians from Washington.

"So Mrs. Martin has engaged the Eden Musee and Carl Berger's bands of gypsies," he said yesterday. "I know neither organization, but I know Hungarians, and none of them are musicians. They play after a fashion—in a wild, untaught way—but none can read a note of music."

Surplus of Marie Antoinettes.

It is expected that there will be nearly two score Marie Antoinettes at the ball, most of them gowned alike. The majority of them have lately studied prints of Louis Brum's picture of the beautiful Queen, and will follow the original as nearly as possible. The list at last accounts includes Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish, Mrs. T. J. Oakley Rhine-

SEVEN LOST IN THE FIRES.

Heartrending Scenes at Hoboken Holocausts.

SIX DEAD IN ONE ROOM.

No Chance to Escape from the Fate Which Claimed Them.

BRAVE WORK OF WOMEN.

Mrs. Mangels and One Daughter Injured While Trying to Save Another.

RUSH BACK INTO THE FLAMES.

In Spite of Their Efforts the Child Is Burned to Death—Twenty-three Families Homeless.

Fate has no favorites. While Charles Schroeder sat in a corner beer saloon, in Hoboken, on Saturday night, playing cards and squandering the earnings of his wife, the flames in which they lived caught fire. Before help could reach Mrs. Schroeder she and her five children were suffocated. The flames found the bodies.

Continued on Second Page.

WEYLER AS "REFORMER."

Apezteguia Thinks the General Should Carry Out Pacification Plans.

By Don Fernando Rodriguez.

Madrid, Jan. 31.—I had an interesting interview to-day with the Marquis of Apezteguia, the great Spanish champion of better government for Cuba, who said he expected good results from the introduction of reforms. The person to introduce them ought to be the general suppressing the rebellion. He ought to unite energetic military action with the execution of the reforms, absolutely rejecting all compromise with extraneous suggestions.

Spain above all owed this to her own prestige. The Marquis said he believed the war would not be finished so soon as expected. The political reforms might split up the parties in Cuba, but they were conceived in broad conciliatory spirit.

With respect to the United States, he considered that they would change their attitude if Spain made them commercial concession, which might improve the American market.

The Marquis applauded the line of conduct followed by Canovas.

The Herald positively asserts to-night that while no treaty of commerce with the United States will be concluded before the end of two months, negotiations are still actively progressing.

TREVELYAN OUT OF OFFICE.

Well-Known Liberal Member of Parliament Resigns His Seat.

London, Jan. 31.—Sir George Otto Trevelyan, M. P. for the Bridgeton division of Glasgow, has resigned his seat in the House of Commons owing to ill-health. Sir George has been a prominent figure in politics for many years, and his retirement will be severely felt by the Liberal party.

EIGHTY MEN AND WOMEN FIREBUGS.

Husbands Whip and Club Their Wives and Make Them Apply the Torch.

Three Leaders of the Incendiary Gangs Make Confessions in Raymond Street Jail.

Two Ex-City Officials Said to Be Implicated in the Astounding Operations of the Conspirators Throughout the Country.

Three firebugs have made startling confessions in Raymond Street Jail.

Eighty men and women are charged with the horrible crimes. Women were clubbed by their husbands until they assisted in burning the buildings.

Two ex-public officials are alleged to be implicated, and the prosecuting officers say that no guilty man shall be allowed to escape.

THREE of the Brooklyn firebugs have made confessions of an appalling character. Morris Schoenholz, Abraham Steinberg and Adolph Hirschkopf each implicate men and women of fearful crimes.

Between seventy and eighty persons stand accused. Their names are withheld to avoid the need to perpetrate these crimes.

First come the "mechanics," who set the buildings on fire; next the men who took out excessive insurance on their more or less bogus stock; next the adjusters of the amount the insurance companies should pay.

But back of all these conspirators in crime stand pilloried in infamy the originators of the scheme for destroying property, and often human lives.

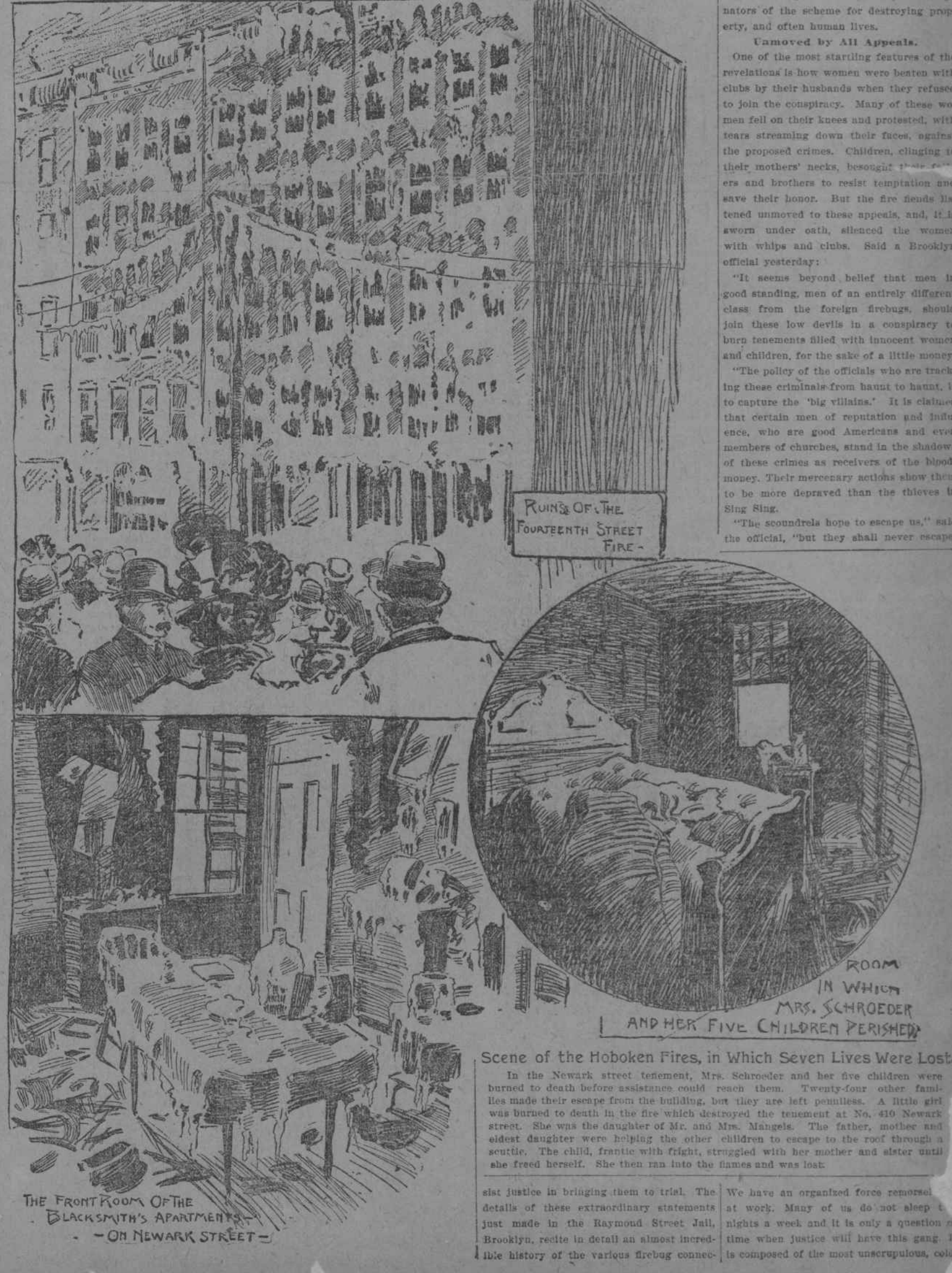
Unmoved by All Appeals.

One of the most startling features of the revelations is how women were beaten with clubs by their husbands when they refused to join the conspiracy. Many of these women fell on their knees and protested, with tears streaming down their faces, against the proposed crimes. Children, clinging to their mothers' necks, besought their fathers and brothers to resist temptation and save their honor. But the fire fiends listened unmoved to these appeals, and, it is sworn under oath, silenced the women with whips and clubs. Said a Brooklyn official yesterday:

"It seems beyond belief that men in good standing, men of an entirely different class from the foreign firebugs, should join these low devils in a conspiracy to burn tenements filled with innocent women and children, for the sake of a little money."

"The policy of the officials who are tracking these criminals from haunt to haunt, is to capture the 'big villains.' It is claimed that certain men of reputation and influence, who are good Americans and even members of churches, stand in the shadows of these crimes as receivers of the blood-money. Their mercenary actions show them to be more depraved than the thieves in Sing Sing."

"The scoundrels hope to escape us," said the official, "but they shall never escape."



Scene of the Hoboken Fires, in Which Seven Lives Were Lost.

In the Newark street tenement, Mrs. Schroeder and her five children were burned to death before assistance could reach them. Twenty-four other families made their escape from the building, but they are left penniless. A little girl was burned to death in the fire which destroyed the tenement at No. 410 Newark street. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mangels. The father, mother and eldest daughter were helping the other children to escape to the roof through a scuttle. The child, frantic with fright, struggled with her mother and sister until she freed herself. She then ran into the flames and was lost.

slat justice in bringing them to trial. The details of these extraordinary statements just made in the Raymond Street Jail, Brooklyn, rectify in detail an almost incredible history of the various firebug connections. We have an organized force removed at work. Many of us do not sleep a night's week and it is only a question of time when justice will have this gang. It is composed of the most unscrupulous, cold